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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHERN DIVISION

SOUTHERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS SERIES—ITEM 1

THE SOUTH'S FARM TENANCY PROBLEM

Address by C. A. Cobb, Director, Southern Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, before the Conference of Rural Ministers, State College, Mississippi, June 26, 1936

I do not believe it is necessary to tell you that spiritual values, your chief concern, and economic questions are closely related. You men and women realize it more clearly perhaps than any other group. You have seen the effect of poverty upon wide areas; wide areas with fertile soil and great natural advantages. You have seen its effect translated into terms of shiftlessness, ignorance, and disease. You know that poverty has been an impelling factor in the degeneracy of many rural areas into rural slums. It is significant, I think, that a number of the outlaws who became notorious in the late 1920's and the early 1930's came from those country districts in the United States which had been poverty-ridden for years. Few individuals and few sections have the strength or the character to endure poverty over a long period without sinking downward.

As I have indicated, this poverty has translated itself into conditions that are not only difficult to live with but are difficult to remedy. The most pressing social problem we here in the rural South have to contend with arises out of tenancy, and tenancy traces back to slavery, reconstruction, the ups and downs of cotton, the lack of opportunity, to the niggardliness of agricultural income. How could any one expect this section to become a section of family-sized farms, family-owned, in view of the disadvantages under which agriculture has labored since the Civil War and since the World War?

A tariff policy which discriminated against southern agriculture, and agriculture in general, has been an increasing handicap for more than a century. Then there were high freight rates, costly and unsatisfactory credit and marketing facilities that showed scant concern for the producer. Even so the cotton grower might have adjusted himself to all this had it not been for the devastating fluctuations in income. The price of cotton has risen and fallen with the seasons like a ship in a stormy sea. On August 1, 1919, the price of middling cotton at New Orleans was 38.21 cents a pound. It had dropped to 16.55 cents a pound by August 1, 1920. I could cite a long series of similar examples—some of them so recent that the memory is still painful—but it is not necessary. You remember them yourselves. Many of these low-price crops cost as much or more to produce than the crops for which the farmer got a fair price. Any cotton farmer who has bought and paid for a farm in the years which have followed 1919 has been extraordinarily fortunate or extraordinarily able.

Countless tenants who purchased land following seasons when the price of cotton enabled them to make a little money, lost what they invested in subsequent seasons of low prices. One or two bad years wiped them out. They lost heart and resigned themselves to remaining renters or sharecroppers. At the same time, many men who bought and paid for land or who inherited it have seen it foreclosed or have had it taken from them for nonpayment of taxes.

Perhaps some of you read the summary of the recent report on payments to \$10,000 producers under the A. A. A. programs. One interesting bit of information contained in it was that 3,772 multiple farm owners, or owners of a number of farms, such as banks and insurance companies, owned 107,579 farms eligible for participation in the corn-hog programs. It should be pointed out that this does not mean that these multiple-farm owners deliberately set out to acquire these farms as a corporation might set out to acquire other units in the same business. It simply means that in the majority of instances the insurance company, the bank, or other mortgage holder had to foreclose. I know of my own personal knowledge that many investment institutions took over mortgaged farms reluctantly, partly because of humanitarian motives but principally because they dreaded trying to operate those farms themselves. They felt that they had to foreclose to protect what still remained of their investment. Yet they at the same time realized that if they tried to farm the land they probably stood to lose still more. Tragically enough, the ownership of land was rapidly coming to be a liability at the time the adjustment programs of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration went into operation.

Regardless of the multiplicity of reasons for the concentration of land ownership, the result was increased tenancy. And the time has come when we must study the problem which has thus been created and find practical means to meet it. We cannot go on as we have been going. Of that I am convinced.

I do not believe our system of government can endure unless it rests upon a foundation of a stable, landowning farm population. Along with the spread of tenancy has come shiftlessness and restlessness. How can we expect men to find satisfaction in a system that affords so little security? I know and you know that many individuals refuse to take advantage of their opportunities. But they are in the minority and we cannot evade our responsibility by assuming that an inherent inferiority has made our tenant class. You and I know that is not true. Some of the sturdiest and best stock in this country can be found among the tenant class. If we give them opportunity, they will take advantage of it.

The conservation of our soil is imperative. As a nation we were slow to realize it but that realization has come, I believe. The conservation of human resources, however, is far more imperative. It is not a question of what must be done but how it must be done.

We must understand the primary reasons for the continuance and growth of tenancy, however, before we can formulate any plan that will make any appreciable change in existing conditions. A dense farm population and a low agricultural income have combined to perpetuate a system that the South itself has tried to discard for years. Eleven million people are living on farms in the nine States

included in the Southern Region. This means that approximately 34 percent of the total farm population of the United States is located in these nine States; however, only 22 percent of the United States farm income goes to those States.

No wonder that so many of our people are landless and that so much of our soil is depleted.

One thing is fundamental if we are to solve the tenant problem. There must be an adequate and stable farm income. Tenants cannot purchase and pay for land, whether from the Government or a private agency, without this adequate and stable income. Not only that but neither tenants nor landowners can live in security on the land without it. They can exist and that is just what most have been doing for the last 15 or 16 years.

There are approximately 2,000,000 cotton farmers. In 1919 the cash income from the cotton crop; the cash income, mind you, without deducting the cost of making the crop, was a little more than \$2,000,000,000, or about \$1,000 for each family engaged in cultivating cotton.

There are about five persons in the average family on a cotton farm. One thousand dollars is nothing to boast about even though the living costs of the farm family are lower than those of the average city dweller. Let us keep in mind, however, that the cash income from cotton in 1919 was the highest that it has been in the past half century. The income per family will run less than an average of \$500 annually, and in 1932 the return from the cotton crop was \$464,121,000 or about \$232 for the privilege of supplying the world with a superabundance of cheap cotton. Small wonder that the South was prostrate at the end of 1932.

I have been impatient at times with those persons who make the A. A. A. a target for attack. I can understand the feelings of the processor groups. Their profits have been reduced in some cases. But frankly, I cannot grasp the reasoning of those persons who insist that A. A. A. has aggravated the tenant problem, and made the lot of the sharecropper worse than it was. In 1932 it took $2\frac{1}{3}$ bales of cotton to bring what 1 brought last year. The figures on farm foreclosures show a decline since the adjustment programs began operation. This reversal in trend has prevented many a home from being sold under the hammer. You know and I know that many men who are landowners today would be tenants if it had not been for the A. A. A.

Moreover, studies from impartial sources show that displacement because of A. A. A. programs has been negligible. Let me quote you a paragraph from an analysis of the cotton program published this year by the Brookings Institution, an outstanding research agency which has no connection with any Federal agency:

"The available evidence does not substantiate the alarmist statements which have been widely circulated that a great number of tenants and croppers have been displaced or their tenure status reduced. While this evidence does not constitute conclusive proof, it does indicate that there has not been any appreciable displacement of tenants or reduction in their tenure status as a result of the A. A. A. cotton program."

Yet even if we concede that the displacement has been considerable, I do not see how anyone could seriously argue that the lot of the ten-

ant, by and large, has become worse. The income from cotton, including seed, rose from \$464,121,000 in 1932 to \$842,000,000 in 1935, an increase of over 80 percent. Is it reasonable to suppose that the average tenant got less from a cotton crop which yielded \$842,000,000 or the one before A. A. A. which returned \$464,121,000? I think common sense supplies the answer. Or is it reasonable to suppose that a landlord who deprived a tenant of his rightful share of benefit payments would have dealt with him on the basis of the most scrupulous honesty if there had been no program?

Nor do I think that any progress is being made toward the solution of the tenant problem through efforts to make it appear that A. A. A. is responsible for tenancy. The A. A. A. had its faults. Perhaps some of us close to it were slow to admit them, but it might have been that some of this very slowness was the instinctive reaction against unfair and sometimes unscrupulous attacks.

The only dispassionate studies I have seen refute charges that the A. A. A. has made the tenant's lot harder.

I have particularly in mind a survey by Mr. C. Horace Hamilton, Rural Sociologist, North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, at Raleigh. In his preliminary report on November 22, 1935, he says:

The conditions of croppers and renters in North Carolina have been substantially improved under the New Deal according to a survey of 1,703 rural families which was made by the Division of Rural Sociology, North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, with the assistance of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration.

Out of the 202 farm laborers in 1931 only 17 became croppers in 1932, and 4 became renters, and none became owners—making a total shift up the agricultural ladder of 21 in 1932 as compared with 43 in 1935. Furthermore, in 1932, 5 renters and 22 croppers dropped down into the farm laborer group as compared with 4 renters and 19 croppers in 1935. Between 1932 and 1935 the number of farm laborers decreased from 215 to 162; whereas, the number of croppers increased from 380 to 411; tenants, from 321 to 374; and owners, from 472 to 495.

Out of 380 croppers in 1931, 15 became renters and 1 became a farm owner in 1932, as compared with 18 and 4, respectively, in 1935.

Out of the 321 renters in 1931, 4 became owners in 1932 as compared with 8 in 1935.

Out of the 472 owners in 1931, 12 became renters or croppers as contrasted with 9 in 1935. Only 11 farmers shifted into the owner class in 1932 as compared with 21 in 1935.

In view of the fact that there has been some discussion of the effect of the A. A. A. program on renters, croppers, and laborers, it is felt that the above data are of considerable significance.

I have no ready-made formula for the attainment of that fundamental essential—an adequate and stabilized income for the southern farmer. I am reminded that John C. Calhoun pointed out a hundred years ago at a conference in South Carolina that our people could never hope to attain economic security as long as they were compelled to sell low and buy high. They have been doing that ever since but there have been signs within the past few years that this Government will turn away from a policy that has sapped our resources here at home and has killed a good deal of our foreign trade. If we do that, and if we in the South balance our production with demand, and diversify our crops, we will have taken a long stride toward a fair return for the cotton farmer.

I wonder that industrialists who practice production control as a matter of course can keep a straight face while they denounce production control for agriculture. We had the greatest carry-over of cotton on record in 1932; we had a huge carry-over of wheat; of corn; of almost every agricultural commodity. The bread lines were never longer, nor hunger more acute than at that time. It is a queer economy which dictates that the cotton farmer shall continue to produce huge, profitless crops after his market has been glutted. That is equivalent to telling him that he must impoverish himself, his soil, and the generations which follow after him.

A denial of agriculture's right to adjust its production to demand is a denial of agriculture's right to equality with other industry.

If our economic system were perfectly adjusted we would not need the help of government in solving agriculture's problems. But our economic system, as we all know, isn't perfectly adjusted. The farmer needs the aid of his Government to help him do the things he cannot do for himself without such aid. The railroads, factories, and other industries grew powerful, and rich through Government subsidy and Government protection. What were, or are, exorbitant tariffs but a heavy tax upon all consumers, farmers among them?

Agriculture is not asking for special privilege. It is asking only for the same consideration that has been extended to other groups. Farmers cannot adjust their production without the machinery of government to enable them to cooperate. We have seen that demonstrated through the test of experience. It may be possible also—and I am inclined to think that it is—that still further governmental aid is necessary before we will have made any appreciable progress toward the goal of home ownership among the tenants of the South, and other sections as well.

Most of you are familiar with the Bankhead-Jones tenant bill which was introduced in the last Congress. In brief, it would have set up a Government corporation which would acquire land and sell it to tenants at low interest rates and on long-time terms.

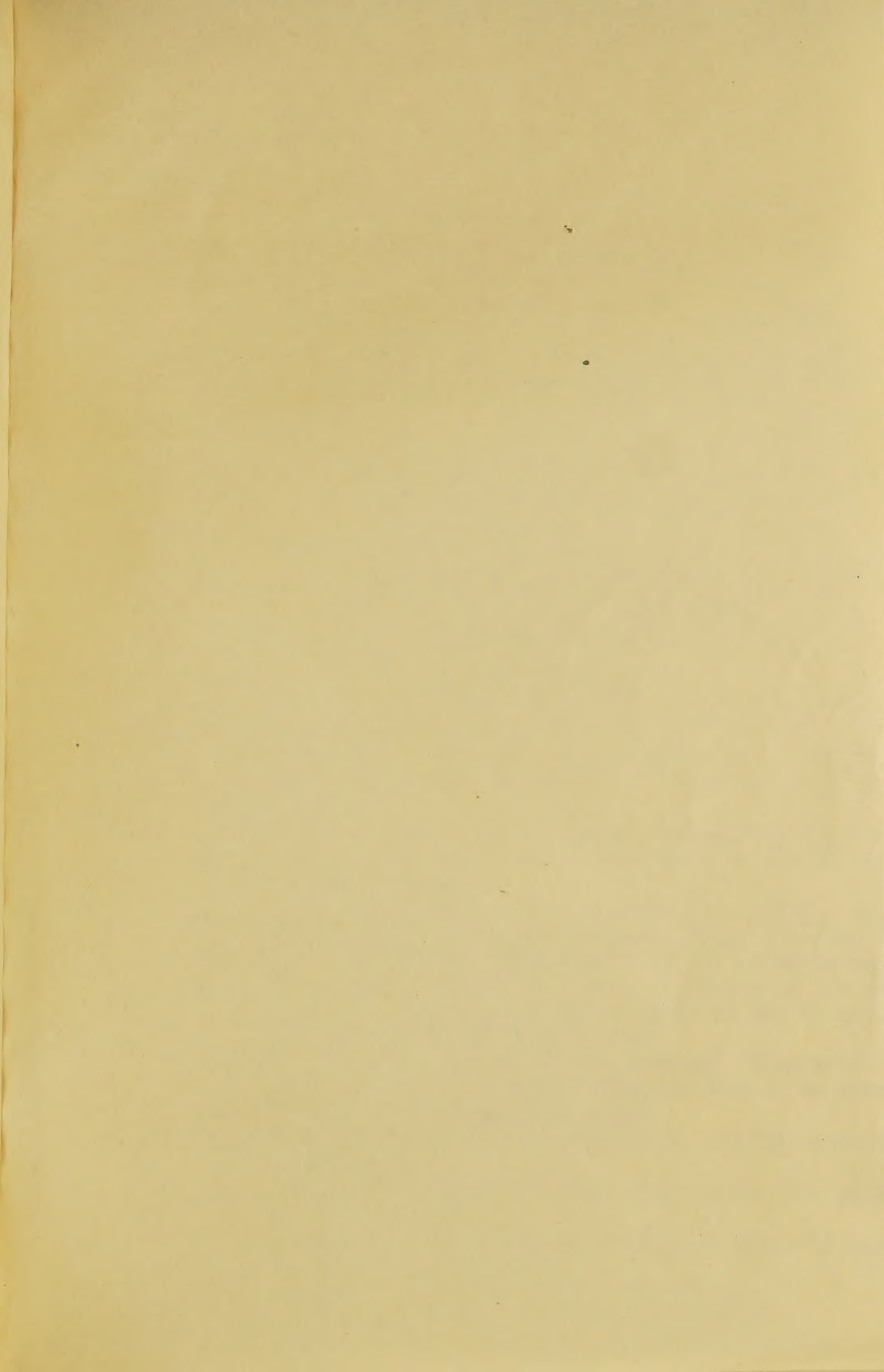
I approve the general principle of the proposal but I do so with reservations. The administration of such a measure must be sound. Every step should be measured and tested carefully until we are certain of our ground. I want to emphasize the principle that such a program must be self-liquidating. We must disabuse people of the idea that the Government owes them a living, whether they make any effort to earn it or not, or that the Government owes them a home. We human beings are inclined to be a bit dependent if we are allowed to be. All any Government program to end tenancy should do is to afford the able, ambitious and energetic an opportunity to become home owners, and an opportunity to remain home owners.

I have discussed the tenant problem without regard to race. I have done so intentionally. Of the approximately 1,500,000 tenants in the South, more than half are white. Any plan that would discriminate against one class of tenants would inevitably discriminate against the other class. Any plan that will help one class of tenants will help all classes. Any plan that will help tenants will help land-owners.

Government aid in a program to reduce tenancy and help the entire South is necessary and justified but it is not sufficient in itself.

Your help is imperative. Of course, that can be taken for granted, and so can the aid of other right thinking and sensible citizens of the South. Otherwise, we will get nowhere.

In some ways we have made more progress since 1933 than in any other similar period that I can remember—perhaps in any similar period in history. First and foremost, we have proved our ability to work together in a common program for the common good. That is why I am anxious for a common effort toward the solution of other pressing problems. We must make that effort if we are to consolidate the gains we have already made.



July 3, 1936

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SOUTHERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS SERIES - ITEM 2 JUL 18 1936 ★

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PROBLEMS IN KEEPING WITH GOOD FARMING ON WHICH FARMERS NEED
INSTRUCTIONS DURING SUMMER, FALL, AND WINTER

- I. What justifiable reasons are there for a permanent program in Agriculture?
- II. The fundamental objectives of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act:
 1. To conserve and improve the fertility of the soil.
 2. To reestablish and maintain the ratio between purchasing power of farmers and people in other occupations as it existed 1909-14.
 3. To insure an adequate supply of food, feed, and fiber crops at prices fair to both producers and consumers.
 4. The protection of rivers and harbors from results of erosion and diminish danger from floods.
 5. Bring about more economical production.
- III. What will be the benefits to your farmers by filing work sheets and co-operating in the program?
 1. How many farmers in your community have not executed work sheets?
 2. Develop all possible reasons why these farmers have not executed work sheets.
 3. Does every farmer in your community understand why it is necessary to execute a work sheet in order to participate in the Agricultural Conservation Program?
 4. Estimate total benefits to your community, if 25, 50, 75, or 100 percent of your farmers participate. Note: Consider both Class I and Class II payments, improvement in soil, increased food and feed production, and increased prices as a result of the program.
 5. To what extent may a farmer participate in the program if he has not executed a work sheet up to now?
- IV. What points need to be cleared in the program? Some are:
 1. Can a man qualify for soil-building payment if he does not divert acreage from a soil-depleting base?
 2. Can a man increase food- and feed-crop acreage above his base without penalty?
 3. What must be done with land that is diverted from cotton or other soil-depleting bases?
 4. Upon what acreage will payment be made if diverted acreage is more than soil-conserving acreage?
 5. What determines the soil-building allowance?
 6. Can the soil-building allowance be increased?
 7. What crops may the farmer plant to increase his soil-building allowance?
- V. Some farming practices that may, where adapted, be profitably put into effect this summer, fall, and winter:
 1. Summer legumes:
 - (a) Interplant peas, crotalaria, and other legumes in late corn; or plant on stubble or idle cropland.
 - (b) Plant small areas in rows for seed production.
 - (c) Procure and properly store 1937 seed supply. (Save all seed produced, harvest on shares, etc.)

2. Winter legumes:
 - (a) Planting Austrian peas, vetch, crimson clover, and other winter legumes. (Applying lime, superphosphate or basic slag)
 3. Terracing or contour listing cropland and pastures.
 4. Establishing or improving pastures. (Lime, superphosphate, basic slag)
 5. Establish wood lots and conserve woodlands. (Fire control and thinning)
 6. Non-legumes:
 - (a) Sudan grass for hay, pasture, green manure, etc.
 - (b) Sorghum and millets for erosion control, green manure, etc.
 7. Eradication of noxious weeds.
 8. Small grains for food and feed, as winter cover and green manure crops.
 9. Perennial legumes: Alfalfa, kudzu, sericea.
- VI. What should be considered in planning a sound farming program?
1. Determine present situation on the farm in respect to:
 - (a) Soil types and slopes. (b) Erosion and drainage. (c) Labor supply.
 - (d) Food and feed supply. (e) Cash income. (f) Productivity of soil and soil maintenance practices. (g) Livestock, pasture, etc.
 - (h) Practices being followed and their effectiveness.
 2. What is the situation in regard to the above factors and practices being followed by the better farmers in the community?
 3. What are the experiment station findings in regard to the most effective practices to follow under similar situations?
- VII. What improved practices may be profitably put into effect on the farm in 1936?
- VIII. What additional improved practices may profitably be carried out on the farm in 1937?
- IX. How do the practices in No. VII and No. VIII fit into the Agricultural Conservation Program?
1. Which of these will add to the soil-building allowance?
 2. Which of these will add to the soil-building payment?
- X. Does the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act provide a permanent farm program?
- XI. References on the Agricultural Conservation Program for the Southern Region:
1. Public No. 461. (Copy of the Act)
 2. S.R. Bulletin 1, Revised, 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program, and Supplements a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, and j.
 3. S.R. Bulletin 2, Soil-Building Practices, and Supplements a and b.
 4. S.R. Bulletin 3, Instructions on Establishing Bases and Filling Out Work Sheets, and Supplement a.
 5. S.R. Leaflet No. 1, Revised, and S.R. Leaflet 2, Informational Series.
 6. Form S.R. 1, Work Sheet and G. 54, Soil Conservation.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Southern Division
July , 1936

TABLE FOR DETERMINING MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM ACREAGE
Southern Region Miscellaneous Series - Item 3

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3.	1.0	.9	.6	.4	: 23.	8.0	6.9	4.6	3.4
4.	1.4	1.2	.8	.6	: 24.	8.4	7.2	4.8	3.6
5.	1.7	1.5	1.0	.7	: 25.	8.7	7.5	5.0	3.7
6.	2.1	1.8	1.2	.9	: 26.	9.1	7.8	5.2	3.9
7.	2.4	2.1	1.4	1.0	: 27.	9.4	8.1	5.4	4.0
8.	2.8	2.4	1.6	1.2	: 28.	9.8	8.4	5.6	4.2
9.	3.1	2.7	1.8	1.3	: 29.	10.1	8.7	5.8	4.3
10.	3.5	3.0	2.0	1.5	: 30.	10.5	9.0	6.0	4.5
11.	3.8	3.3	2.2	1.6	: 31.	10.8	9.3	6.2	4.6
12.	4.2	3.6	2.4	1.8	: 32.	11.2	9.6	6.4	4.8
13.	4.5	3.9	2.6	1.9	: 33.	11.5	9.9	6.6	4.9
14.	4.9	4.2	2.8	2.1	: 34.	11.9	10.2	6.8	5.1
15.	5.2	4.5	3.0	2.2	: 35.	12.2	10.5	7.0	5.2
16.	5.6	4.8	3.2	2.4	: 36.	12.6	10.8	7.2	5.4
17.	5.9	5.1	3.4	2.5	: 37.	12.9	11.1	7.4	5.5
18.	6.3	5.4	3.6	2.7	: 38.	13.3	11.4	7.6	5.7
19.	6.6	5.7	3.8	2.8	: 39.	13.6	11.7	7.8	5.8
20.	7.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	: 40.	14.0	12.0	8.0	6.0

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44.	15.4	13.2	8.8	6.6	: 74.	25.9	22.2	14.8	11.1
45.	15.7	13.5	9.0	6.7	: 75.	26.2	22.5	15.0	11.2
46.	16.1	13.8	9.2	6.9	: 76.	26.6	22.8	15.2	11.4
47.	16.4	14.1	9.4	7.0	: 77.	26.9	23.1	15.4	11.5
48.	16.8	14.4	9.6	7.2	: 78.	27.3	23.4	15.6	11.7
49.	17.1	14.7	9.8	7.3	: 79.	27.6	23.7	15.8	11.8
50.	17.5	15.0	10.0	7.5	: 80.	28.0	24.0	16.0	12.0
51.	17.8	15.3	10.2	7.6	: 81.	28.3	24.3	16.2	12.1
52.	18.2	15.6	10.4	7.8	: 82.	28.7	24.6	16.4	12.3
53.	18.5	15.9	10.6	7.9	: 83.	29.0	24.9	16.6	12.4
54.	18.9	1.62	10.8	8.1	: 84.	29.4	25.2	16.8	12.6
55.	19.2	16.5	11.0	8.2	: 85.	29.7	25.5	17.0	12.7
56.	19.6	16.8	11.2	8.4	: 86.	30.1	25.8	17.2	12.9
57.	19.9	17.1	11.4	8.5	: 87.	30.4	26.1	17.4	13.0
58.	20.3	17.4	11.6	8.7	: 88.	30.8	26.4	17.6	13.2
59.	20.6	17.7	11.8	8.8	: 89.	31.1	26.7	17.8	13.3
60.	21.0	18.0	12.0	9.0	: 90.	31.5	27.0	18.0	13.5
61.	21.3	18.3	12.2	9.1	: 91.	31.8	27.3	18.2	13.6
62.	21.7	18.6	12.4	9.3	: 92.	32.2	27.6	18.4	13.8
63.	22.0	18.9	12.6	9.4	: 93.	32.5	27.9	18.6	13.9
64.	22.4	19.2	12.8	9.6	: 94.	32.9	28.2	18.8	14.1
65.	22.7	19.5	13.0	9.7	: 95.	33.2	28.5	19.0	14.2
66.	23.1	19.8	13.2	9.9	: 96.	33.6	28.8	19.2	14.4
67.	23.4	20.1	13.4	10.0	: 97.	33.9	29.1	19.4	14.5
68.	23.8	20.4	13.6	10.2	: 98.	34.3	29.4	19.6	14.7
69.	24.1	20.7	13.8	10.3	: 99.	34.6	29.7	19.8	14.8
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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Southern Region Miscellaneous Series - Item 4

Procedure for Development
and
Questions for Discussion

1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Foreword

The holding of these community meetings marks the fourth consecutive year in which farmers have worked together in shaping programs for the improvement of their farms and the protection of their incomes. The use of this cooperative method to solve mutual problems represents, for agriculture, a long stride forward in a short time.

My special message to farmers and committeemen as they begin working out a new national farm program for 1937 is that I hope they will keep their fundamental objectives always in mind.

These should be to devise a program that will help to check soil erosion, to conserve and improve soil fertility, to encourage better land use, and to restore and maintain an equitable level of farm income.

Everyone knows that these are sound objectives. A program devoted to such purposes will serve not only agricultural welfare but national welfare. It will bring about a better balance in the production of food, feed and fibers. Farmers must attain these aims in order to provide greater abundance for the average American home. Their responsibility to consumers is to provide amply supplies of food, feed and fiber. In return they have a right to expect enough income to maintain their farms and care for their families, with a standard of living which keeps pace with that for the nation as a whole.

If, in their community meetings and later discussions, farmers keep striving for these main goals, I am confident the details will be worked out, and a sound and useful program for 1937 will be the result.

/s/ H. A. Wallace
Secretary.

WHAT KIND OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM IS NEEDED
IN THE SOUTHERN REGION IN 1937?

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act is a continuing act under which a continuing Agricultural Conservation Program may be conducted by farmers with the cooperation of the Federal Government. An appropriation of such sum, not to exceed \$500,000,000, as Congress may deem necessary to effectuate the program is authorized to be made annually.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration is taking steps toward development of the details of an Agricultural Conservation Program for 1937 in order that it may be offered to farmers in time to be fully effective and of the maximum benefit in 1937.

In developing a program for 1937, the viewpoints and experience of farmers in the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program should be brought together with experience gained on the national aspects of Agricultural Conservation.

As the Secretary of Agriculture points out, the fundamental objectives of the Agricultural Conservation Program should be "to check soil erosion, to conserve and improve soil fertility, to encourage better land use, and to restore and maintain an equitable level of farm income."

The ultimate goal of research workers, Extension and other agricultural educational workers, is to provide opportunity for the farm family to work out its own welfare on equal terms, and to help agriculture contribute to the national welfare by supplying the food, feed and fiber which the nation needs to provide adequately for its consumers and its trade.

Protection, improvement and wise use of soil resources are essential if such a goal is to be reached by the individual farm family or by the nation. Wise soil management, therefore, is fundamental to any project in research or any extension or other project in agricultural education.

The aim of research workers in wise soil management is to get new facts. The aim of agricultural education is to make those facts known to farmers. The aim of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to make it economically possible for farmers to put these facts to work, which they are often unable to do if an unbalanced economy forces agriculture to exploit soil and other resources in order to meet current obligations.

Since wise soil management is fundamental to the common goal of research and education in agriculture, the Agricultural Conservation Program can contribute to advancement of any research project in agriculture and to any extension or other educational project in agriculture. Leaders and workers in such projects should become familiar with the opportunities which lie in the Agricultural Conservation Program for the advancement of their projects.

In the formulation of the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program the Southern Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration desires to bring together the experience of farmers, research workers, educational workers and administrators of the agricultural programs. As a means of

doing this and of familiarizing farmers and others with the opportunities for reaching their common goal, which lie within such a program, the following procedure is suggested:

Procedure for Formulating 1937 Agricultural
Conservation Program in the Southern Region

1. The State Director of Extension, the administrative officer in charge of the program in each State, representatives of the Southern Division, and others, conferring in Dallas on September 18 and 19, developed and discussed questions which should be considered by producers in the formulation and carrying out of the 1937 program.

2. In States where it is possible, during October or soon after, the Director of Extension, the State Agricultural Conservation Committee, the State administrative officer in charge of the program, district agents, Extension specialists, representatives of the Experiment stations and representatives of the Southern Division should confer.

It is suggested that this conference follow this course:

(a) Outlining the objectives set up by the Experiment Station workers and the various Extension specialists.

(b) Determination of the extent to which the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program directly encouraged and facilitated the attainment of these objectives.

(c) Determination of whether there are certain other objectives which were not directly encouraged by the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program which could and should be recognized in the 1937 program.

(d) Determination of whether the payments made in 1936 were so balanced among the various objectives as to give due weight to the value of each in a well balanced agriculture.

(e) Suggestion of changes in these or other details of the program.

3. Where possible, plans should be developed for district extension agents to conduct similar conferences with county farm agents.

4. County agents should be responsible, with the aid of the county Agricultural Conservation Committees, for arranging meetings of Community Committeemen and producers to discuss questions listed herein, and others pertinent to the development and carrying out of the 1937 program. The response of producers to these questions should be recorded at each meeting held and should be summarized by counties and submitted to the Southern Division.

5. The Southern Division will summarize the responses from producers and agricultural leaders on the questions suggested. The experiences of 1936, the suggestions submitted, and the objectives of the Agricultural Conservation Program will be used as guides in formulating and carrying out the provisions of the Agricultural Conservation Program as applied to the Southern Region for 1937.

6. A regional meeting will be held to familiarize leaders with the details of the 1937 program, as so formulated. It is hoped that this may be done during December.

7. Wherever possible, this meeting should be followed by State, county, and community meetings, in order that every producer, committeeman, and agricultural leader may become familiar with details of the 1937 program.

Farmers of the Southern Region should have an opportunity to study and to answer the questions hereunder listed in order that they may express judgments based upon a study of facts as to the form of the 1937 program and in order that they may be sufficiently informed to participate wisely in the 1937 program. Such opportunity can best be provided by leaders arranging for a series of meetings of producers. The number of such meetings will depend upon local conditions, but the cooperation of all agricultural workers will assure that every farmer may have an opportunity to be informed.

To answer intelligently will require a full review and clear understanding of the details of the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program. As an aid to this, Southern Region Bulletin No. 1, Revised, with all supplements, has been reprinted and distributed to agricultural workers.

Southern Region Bulletin Nos. 2 and 3, "Soil-Building Practices" and "Instructions on Establishing Bases and Filling Out Work Sheets", with their supplements, and a copy of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act also will be found helpful. These, too, are in the hands of agricultural leaders.

Leaflets are being prepared that should help to develop understanding of the factors involved and will be available for distribution to farmers and will be sent shortly to State Extension Directors. Revised wall-size cotton production charts have been distributed to all county agents and vocational agriculture teachers. A reserve supply has been sent to State Extension Directors.

Southern Region Agricultural Conservation No. 1 (SRAC-1), showing the effects of summer soil-conserving crops on succeeding crops, and Southern Region Agricultural Conservation No. 2 (SRAC-2), summarizing research work on winter soil-conserving crops, should prove helpful on many of these questions. These publications have been sent to committeemen, agricultural workers, and a reserve supply to State Extension Directors.

The results of the County Agricultural Adjustment Program Planning studies made last year are available in many states. In these will be found facts pertaining to the agriculture of the individual state which will have an important bearing on future Agricultural Conservation Programs, and should be considered by farmers.

Questions which it is desirable that both producers and agricultural workers should study and express an opinion upon are given on the following pages. The sheets on which they appear are arranged so that they may be used to record the group-opinions expressed at community meetings, and to summarize the community results for each county. For the convenience of county agents,

extra copies of the question sheets are being sent to be used for these purposes.

It is requested that each county agent summarize the replies from community meetings and send the summary for the county to the State Director of Extension for transmittal to the Director, Southern Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Community _____ County _____ State _____

PRODUCERS OPINIONS FOR USE IN FORMULATING THE 1937 AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

SOUTHERN REGION

Number _____

1. Should changes be made in 1937 in classification of crops as soil-conserving, soil-depleting or neutral? Yes: _____
No: _____

Suggested Changes:

	Crop	Number of Acres
2. Considering the interests of the consumer and of the farmer in economic land use, what acreage of the following crops should be planted in the United States in 1937?	COTTON	_____
	WHEAT	_____
	TOBACCO	_____
	PEANUTS	_____
	TRUCK	_____
	RICE	_____
	SUGARCANE FOR SUGAR	_____

	Crop	Maximum Diversion Percent	Rate of Payment
3. What should be the maximum percentage of each base for which any individual will be given payment for diverting in 1937, and what rates of payment should be made?	COTTON	_____	_____
	GENERAL CROPS	_____	_____
	TOBACCO	_____	_____
	PEANUTS	_____	_____
	OTHER CROP SUCH AS	_____	_____
	TRUCK	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

4. What soil-building practices for which payment was made in 1936 should be retained in 1937 and what should be the rates of payment for each in order to give proper weight to the value of the various practices?
What practices should be added?
- (FOR CONVENIENCE IN ANSWERING THIS, LIST REPLIES ON BLANK "REPORT OF PERFORMANCE", FORM SR-8, ATTACHING TO THIS SHEET)

5. Should bases established in 1936 be used in 1937, with adjustments to correct inequities in individual cases? Number _____
Yes: _____
IF NOT, WHAT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE? No: _____
ANSWER:

6. (a) Is full use now being made of provisions for adjusting individual inequities; or (a) Yes: Number
No: _____
- (b) If full use is made of such provisions can individual inequities be adequately adjusted; or (b) Yes: _____
No: _____
- (c) Should provisions be made for additional flexibility in the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program? (c) Yes: _____
No: _____

7. Should provisions be made in the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program for making payments to encourage improvement in the quality of cotton and other products? Number
Yes: _____
No: _____

8. Are insurance features of the Agricultural Conservation Program adequate, or do farmers desire a more comprehensive crop insurance program? Number
Present program adequate: _____
Crop Insurance Needed: _____

9. Should the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program Payments be divided in such proportion as:
- (a) To further emphasize diversion from soil-depleting crops, or (a) Yes: _____
No: _____
- (b) To further encourage soil-building practices, or: (b) Yes: _____
No: _____
- (c) Is approximately proper weight given to each of these objectives in payments as provided in 1936? (c) Yes: _____
No: _____

10. To what extent will the changes suggested cause delay and uncertainty and add to the cost of the administration?

ANSWER:

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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE
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Number

PRODUCERS OPINIONS FOR USE IN FORMULATING THE 1937 AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

SOUTHERN REGION

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TRUCK	_____
RICE	_____
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Crop

Maximum
Diversion
(Percent)Rate of
Payment

COTTON	_____	_____
GENERAL CROPS	_____	_____
TOBACCO	_____	_____
PEANUTS	_____	_____
OTHER CROP SUCH AS:	_____	_____
TRUCK	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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